



NEWS RELEASE

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INDIANA RANKS FIFTH IN QUALITY OF WORKFORCE TRAINING EFFORTS

Indiana's workforce development programs were ranked fifth best in the nation in a poll of more than 80 corporate site location consultants, according to Expansion Management Magazine.

In a lengthy article detailing the state of workforce development programs nationally, the Magazine noted that companies expanding their operations now expect their new facilities to be profitable immediately, and a trained labor pool is a critical part of that objective.

"In a world where executives demand an instant ROI, the ability to have a well-trained work force that knows how to handle the task at hand from the beginning, and not experience the inevitable missteps that come with on-the job training, is more than just a luxury. It is a necessity for companies competing in the global economy," the magazine wrote.

The poll of the corporate site location consultants ranked Georgia No.1, followed by Alabama, Kentucky, South Carolina and Indiana.

"While we are pleased that Indiana's efforts have not gone unnoticed, we still have much work to do in the months and years ahead as we continue to upgrade the skills of our workforce for the global economy," said Ron Stiver, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

"A key determinant in an expansion or relocation of a company is the quality of the work force," Stiver continued. "In many ways, the availability of a skilled work force can be the deciding factor of a company's ultimate decision to relocate or expand."

The article noted that "state programs are judged not only in terms of their financial value but also in terms of ease of usage and applicability. In other words, some programs may theoretically have a high value but are of little practical use to most companies. Likewise, some programs may be both useful and valuable, but are so wrapped up in red tape requirements that they are extremely difficult to actually use."

Stiver noted that the administration of Governor Mitch Daniel's is reshaping Indiana's array of economic development tools to make its assistance efforts more transparent, user-friendly, and accountable. A key point in the state's approach is targeted training funds to areas where the state has quantifiable skills shortages.

"Our new \$23 million Strategic Skills Initiative is designed to provide a more focused approach which will better identify key skills gaps in our workforce and quickly move training resources to equip our workers with skills needed for jobs in the 21st Century," Stiver said "It's a fact that a state's work force training incentives are directly related to the state's competitiveness, and that is why our programs must be targeted to areas of greatest need and administered efficiently and effectively," he said.

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The Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve worker skills. The Agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with Indiana's 26 WorkOne centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers with layoffs and closures, and operates a statewide job placement service. For more information on DWD and its programs, call 888-465-4616 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

Note to News Media: attached are the links to the online version of Expansion Management's article and their news release:

Article: <http://www.expansionmanagement.com/smo/newsviewer/default.asp?cmd=articledetail&articleid=16743&st=3>

Press Release:

<http://www.expansionmanagement.com/smo/articleviewer/default.asp?cmd=articledetail&articleid=16758&st=5>

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